(b) what funds have been allocated for this purpose by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The details of railway projects likely to be under construction during the next three years and , thereafter, and the funds allocated against each of them are given in the Pink Book which forms a part of the Railway Budget documents.

Increase in Rail accidents

31. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable increase in rail accident during the last one year, in comparison to the previous two years;

(b) what has been the estimated loss of life and property in each case; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to minimise rail accidents; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of persons who lost their lives in train accidents during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 was 214, 267 and 216 respectively. Loss to railway property on account of these accidents during these years was Rs. 11.45 crores, Rs. 16.40 crores and Rs. 11.09 crores respectively.

(c) Some of the steps taken to prevent accidents are as under:—

(i) Greater emphasis upon rehabilitation of rolling stock, including passenger coaches.

(ii) Increased pace of track renewals,

(iii) Induction of sophisticated technology to supplement human vigliance viz., auxiliary warning system, axle counter, etc.

(iv) Ultrasonic testing of axles and rails.

(v) Modernisation of workshops to improve the quality of repairs and maintenance.

(vi) Greater emphasis on training, refresher courses, etc. to safety categories of staff viz. drivers, station masters/assistant station masters, guards, switchmen and cabinmen etc. Loco simulators being procured to improve the training of drivers.

(vii) Revamping of training systems, methods and procedures, etc. through use of modern teaching aids like slide projectors, practical demonstrations, etc.

Supply of F-16 by U.S.A. to Pakistan

32. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the U.S.A. has since agreed to supply F-16 fighter aircrafts to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what would be its impact on Indo-US and Indo-Pak relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of earlier United States supplies of F-16s to Pakistan, and has noted with concern Pakisan's request for 60 additional F-16 aircraft. The United States Government is yet to take a decision on the request. It would be premature to comment on the impact that such a development could have on Indo-US, and Indo-Pak relations.

Jammu Tawi-Udhampur rail-link

33. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) when the foundation stone for the

Jammu Tawi-Udhampur rail-link was laid, upto which period the project was likely to be completed and the cost of the work initially estimated;

(b) what is the percentage of rise in the cost and by what percentage the cost is likely to escalate by the time the project is completed;

(c) what percentage of the work has been completed and by when the project is likely to be executed, stating the reasons for delay in its completion; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to ensure that the work is completed according to the revised schedule, so as to avoid further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The foundation stone was laid on 14.4.1983. The completion of the work would depend on the availability of resources in the coming years. The cost of the work as initially shown in the Budget (81-82 Supplementary) was Rs. 50 crore.

(b) The present estimated cost is Rs 112.27 crore which represents a rise of 122% over the original cost of the project. The percentage of future escalation cannot be predicted at this stage.

(c) 12.8%. The delay in completion is due to constraint of resources and the difficult nature of construction.

(d) Additional plan outlay and allocation for new lines is projected to the Planning Commission for completion of on-going projects.

Developing of Bhubaneswar Airport

34. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop Bhubaneswar Airport during 1989-90; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM: (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to extend the runway and to construct a new terminal complex at Bhubaneswar airport for making it suitable for Airbus operations.

Developing Tirupati as a tourist spot

35. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the Report of the study team, set-up to prepare infrastructure for putting Tirupati on the tourist map of the country; and

(b) if so, by when the final decision is expected to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ (PATIL): (a) The Central Government has not set up any Study Team in this regard, nor any such report has been received from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Directive to Pilots by the Indian Pilots Guild

36. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Pilots Guild has directed all the Air India's airbus pilots not to operate flights in case the aircraft is not certified as airworthy by an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer; and

(b) if so, what are the repercussions of this decision on the punctuality and operations of the Air India flights?